

Amendment submitted in response
to Office Action mailed 02/16/2005
U.S. Pat App. No. 09/269,618
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Remarks/Arguments

Status of the Application

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and objections set forth in the Office Action mailed on February 16, 2005.

Claims 1-74 are hereby cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 75-96 are pending in this application.

The Claims

Interview Summary

In a telephonic interview with the Examiner on August 15, 2005, the Applicant and the Examiner discussed the present invention and the claim approach. The Applicant submitted that the claims as presently directed are toward methods of accomplishing an electronic transaction that may, in some embodiment, result in a bearer value note that is anonymous with respect to a previous bearer. Although no formal agreement was reached, the Examiner agreed to review the newly presented claims as directed toward electronic transactions. Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 3-48, 51-53, 61-63, 65-69, and 74

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-48, 51-53, 61-63, 65-69, and 74 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rosen* in view of *Hiroya*, and further in view of *Shneier*, and further in view of *O'Mahony*.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3-48, 51-53, 61-63, 65-69, and 74. Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the newly presented claims, the Examiner's rejections are moot and therefore requests that the rejection based on the cited art be removed.

Applicant now addresses each prior art reference in turn. *Rosen* describes "an improved monetary system using electronic media to securely and reliably exchange economic value" (col. 6, ll. 19-25). However, unlike the present invention, *Rosen* requires a Certification Agency and,

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in doing so, models a banking institution where a bank will serve as a clearing house for electronic transactions (*see* col. 7, ll. 29-65; FIG. 1).

The present invention requires no such components. Indeed, claim 75 requires only a "bank signature" to validate a value represented by a value note (*see* Specification p. 22, ll. 14-18).

Hiroya describes systems for electronic ticket vending and refunding (*see* Abstract). In particular, *Hiroya* requires an electronic ticket storage device that serves as a dedicated interface. (*see* FIGS. 1-2). In contrast, the present invention contemplates only a public access network to complete electronic transactions and further does not require any specialized hardware terminals to complete electronic transactions (*see* FIG. 1; Specification p. 20, l. 26 – p. 21 l. 4).

Shneier describes cryptographic techniques for use with public and private key encryption. In light of the newly presented claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection based on *Shneier* is moot and therefore requests that the rejection based on *Shneier* be removed.

O'Mahony is a 1997 cited art reference. Applicant claims priority to his original filing date of September 26, 1996 under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Applicant respectfully submits that application of the cited art reference is inappropriate and therefore requests that the rejection based on the cited art be removed.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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